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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON  
IN AND FOR GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE TO A THREAT TO PUBLIC  
HEALTH

**GENERAL ORDER 2023-01**

**Resumption of In-person  
Docket Hearings in Grays  
Harbor County Superior  
Court**

WHEREAS, this Court has issued several General Orders since March 12, 2020 to respond to the health emergency and to mitigate the effects of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the infection rate for COVID-19 in Grays Harbor County has dramatically decreased over the past 90 days and is now at its lowest level since the Fall of 2020, thereby decreasing the risk of infection for all persons who are employed at the courthouse or who enter the courthouse to conduct any type of business.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

**EFFECTIVE DATE: MARCH 1, 2023**

1. CRIMINAL DOCKET.

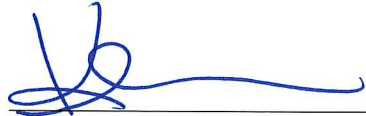
- a. In-custody defendants will appear via Zoom, except for sentencing and change of plea hearings, which shall be conducted in-person.
- b. Out-of-custody defendants shall appear in-person.
- c. Defense counsel may appear in person or remotely, except for sentencing and change of plea hearings, which shall be conducted in-person. However, hard copy original orders for each case must be presented **no later than 4:30 PM on the day of the hearing**. Electronic orders *will not* be accepted.

- d. Special set hearings such as 3.5/3.6 motions or motions in limine will require the defendant and counsel to be present in the courtroom.
2. CIVIL & DOMESTIC DOCKETS. In person appearances are preferred, but all participants and attorneys may appear in-person or remotely. However, hard copy original orders for each case must be presented **no later than 4:30 PM on the day of the hearing**. Electronic orders *will not* be accepted. All guardians ad litem shall have the option of appearing via Zoom or in-person.
3. PROTECTION ORDER DOCKET. All respondents and attorneys shall appear in-person. All petitioners shall have the option to appear via Zoom or in-person.
4. DEPENDENCY. The Dependency docket on Wednesday mornings shall be conducted via Zoom, except for attorneys, who shall appear in-person. The Dependency dockets for contested dependency and/or parental termination hearings shall be in-person for all participants and attorneys. Counsel shall present hard copy original orders for each case at the time of hearing. Electronic orders *will not* be accepted.
5. THERAPEUTIC COURT DOCKETS. Drug Court, Family Recovery Court, Mental Health docket hearings shall be conducted in-person for all participants and attorneys.
6. JUVENILE COURT. The Juvenile Court docket on Thursday mornings shall continue to be conducted as follows: juvenile respondents may appear in-person or via Zoom, except for changes of plea and disposition hearings, which shall require in-person attendance. Attorneys shall appear in-person for all hearings.
7. ITA COURT DOCKETS. ITA Court dockets will continue to be conducted via Zoom indefinitely. Defense counsel shall be in-person at the facility to meet with clients and to attend all hearings. Counsel shall present signed orders for each case **no later than 4:00 PM on the day of the hearing**.
8. REQUESTS TO APPEAR VIA ZOOM. Any person who cannot appear in person may request permission to appear remotely. All such requests must be made in writing at least two days before the hearing date on a form available through the Court's website. Requests will be granted only if compelling reasons exist in support of such requests. Convenience and avoidance of travel shall not constitute a compelling reason. Any orders that need to be presented after remote appearance will not be accepted electronically.
9. YOUTUBE STREAMING. As the Court will be resuming in-person operations, proceedings will no longer be streamed via YouTube. Observers will be allowed into the physical courtrooms.
10. SAFETY PROTOCOLS. The following safety protocols previously implemented by this Court shall remain in effect:
  - a. No person may enter the courthouse without a face mask. Face masks or face coverings must be worn in all public areas and courtrooms within the courthouse. Face shields are not approved by the Washington State Department of Health. Mask use by court employees and courtroom staff shall be at the discretion of the judicial officer presiding over the proceeding.

1 b. Individuals actively participating in a court proceeding shall remove their masks  
2 when addressing the Court. Attorneys and litigants shall address the Court from  
3 behind the counsel tables.

4 c. Social distancing will no longer be required.

5 DATED this 15th day of February, 2023.

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7 KATHERINE L. SVOBODA  
8 PRESIDING JUDGE  
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